

William Harvey House  
East side of Brinton Bridge Road (LR 15199),  
.2 mile north of U.S. Route 1 (Baltimore Pike)  
Chadds Ford Vicinity (Pennsbury Township)  
Chester County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1204

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY HABS No. PA-1204

## WILLIAM HARVEY HOUSE

Location: East side of Brinton Bridge Road (LR 15199), .2 mile north of U.S. Route 1 (Baltimore Pike), Chadds Ford Vicinity (Pennsbury Township), Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: Harold O. Ladd, Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.

Statement of Significance: This is an early (circa 1715 with additions) stone bank house typical of the period.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: William Harvey 1715-1754; William Harvey, Jr. 1754-1809; Amos Harvey 1809-1821; William Harvey 1821-1852; Marshall Harvey 1852-1858; Lewis Forsythe 1858- and from then until 1878, when George W. Lobb purchased it from Isaac B. Webb, it passed through many hands; George W. Lobb and his estate held it until 1905 when Mary E. Thomas purchased it, selling to John H. Minnick 1926 who sold to L. L. Sterner 1954, and in 1956 he sold to the present owner.
2. Date of erection: 1715 or very shortly after.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction: The house had a kitchen and cellars on the lowest level which was fully exposed on the south side. There were two rooms on the first and second floors and in the attic. There was a pent roof on the south elevation over both the first and second stories and pent eaves across the west gable end.
5. Alterations and additions: The pent roofs on the south elevation were removed and replaced by a two-story, shed-roof porch. The pent eaves across the west gable

end were also removed, but later restored. Some interior changes have occurred. The corner fireplaces were replaced and the east staircase was moved to the south wall and connected to a back staircase in the 1950s. A wing was added to the east elevation by J.H. Minnick, who owned the house between 1926 and 1954. This was demolished and replaced by a two-and-a-half-story frame addition in 1957.

6. Important old views and references:

Views: One photo of circa 1905 is in the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania. Cornice return was intact at this time. Plate 70 of Eleanor Raymond; Early Domestic Architecture of Pennsylvania, William Helburn, New York, 1931 also has a picture of the house, with the remains of the west cornice return. Both of these were before any east wing had been erected.

References: Sources of information, all to be found in Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pennsylvania. Classified printed and manuscript files in the Chester County Historical Society, under heading Pennsbury Township, Lands. Olive C. Cadbury: Historical Supplement to the pictorial study... Typed notes giving further data on the Raymond book quoted under Views.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: The history of the land started with the purchase by James Dix in 1681 from William Penn. Peter Dix took up 550 acres on the west side of the Brandywine Creek in 1703, and his heirs sold to Joseph Gilpin, who in 1715 sold the tract to William Harvey. William Harvey built the house, and was the first owner to live on the farm. William Harvey was from Worcestershire, England, and came to Pennsylvania and settled in Chester County after his marriage and just before making the above purchase. The Harveys remained on the place nearly 150 years.

C. Supplemental Material:

1. From Original Manuscript of "A Register of the Damages Sustained by the Inhabitants of the County of Chester in Pennsylvania from the Troops and Adherents of the King of Great Brittain during the present War agreeable to an Act of General Assemble passed September 21st 1782." In possession of the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa.

"An acct of property that was taken by the British & Hission Troops on the 11th & 12th days of Septr. 1777 from Amos Harvey of Pennsbury Township

To 4 Horsed valued @	L65 . 0 .
35 sheep	17 . 10.
1 Calf	1 . 10.
1 Bull	4 . 0 .
1 Hogg	3 . 0
30 dozn oats	3 . 0
1 Tun of Hay	30 .
	<hr/> 130"

2. "Village Record," West Chester, Pa. May 4, 1825.

Public Sale.

"To be sold at Public Sale, on sixth day the 13th instant, at the late dwelling of Amos Harvey dec in Pennsbury township, Chester county, the personal property that was of said dec consisting of a Desk and bookcase, tables and chairs, feather beds and bedding, and a variety of household furniture - Barrels, kettles, tubs, pails, and many articles of kitchen furniture - Bacon, Beef and Tallow by the pound-- work horses & milch cows - sheep and swine - waggons and carts - ploughs and harrows of almost all descriptions - windmill and revolving horserake, a great variety of horse gears, hay by the ton, corn and potatoes by the bushel, and many articles not inserted.

"Sale to commence at 10 o'clock in the forenoon of said day, and continue from day to day until all is sold - Terms at sale.

Wm. HARVEY  
STEPHEN WEBB, Ex'rs.

3. "American Republican," West Chester, Pa., October 13, 1857

"VALUABLE BRANDYWINE FARM AT PUBLIC SALE. - The Subscriber, Assignee of MARSHALL HARVEY, will sell at Public Sale, on the premises, on TUESDAY, the 3d of November, 1857, the following described Valuable Real Estate, on which, the said Marshall Harvey now resides, viz:-

"A FARM, situate in the township of Pennsbury, Chester county, Pa., containing 100 ACRES of superior Brandywine Land, adjoining lands of Brinton Jones, Caleb R. Ring, John Pyle and others. It is within a mile of Chadds Ford Depot on the Philadelphia & Baltimore Central R.R., 6 miles south of West Chester, and 10 north of Wilmington. The improvements consist of a large and comfortable STONE AND FRAME HOUSE, large Frame Barn, with Shedding attached, Carriage House, Wagon-House, Corn Crib, Smoke-House, and other out-buildings. There is a pump of water at the house. The arable land is in the very highest state of cultivation. The quality and condition of the soil has the reputation of being surpassed by none in the county or state. - There are about 10 Acres of Prime WOODLAND.

"The Farm may be divided, and will afford handsome building sites with commanding views of the "Battle Ground."

"Persons wishing to view the Farm, may call on the subscriber residing near Chadd's Ford P.O., Delaware county, Pa. Conditions, which will be easy, made known at the sale.

"Also, will be sold at the same time and place, the entire PERSONAL PROPERTY, of said Marshall Harvey, consisting of 3 Brood MARES, one very superior, one a fast traveller, eight years old; 1 Mare Colt, two years old, Gen. Taylor stock. 2 COLTS, six months old, also of superior stock. 2 COWS, 2 Heifers, 3 Large HOGS, 4 SHOATS; 1 pair of superior WORKING OXEN, suitable for winter feeding. 2 broad wheeled Ox Carts, stone Wagon, Hay Wagon and hay bed, Roakaway Waggon for 2 or 4 persons, Trotting Waggon; single and double Carriage Harness, Saddle and Bridle,

Sleigh Bells, Buffalo Robe, Horse Blankets, Plough Gears, Kunkle and Wiley Ploughs, Hocos Horse Rake, Wheelbarrow, Winnowing Mill, hay straw and manure Forks, ox Yokes and chains, Grindstone, Grain cradles, Cross cut and wood saws, Shovels, Sledges, Corn and Grubbing Hoes, Forked Chain, 3 Hives of Bees, &c. Five shares of the Philadelphia & Baltimore Central R. R. Stock.

"HOUSEHOLD & KITCHEN FURNITURE - consisting of 7 good Feather Beds, high post and other Bedsteads, Bedding - coverlets, counterpanes, comforts, sheets, pillow-cases, &c; Bureaus, Dressing Glasses, Marble-top and other Wash-Stands, marble-top Dining and other Tables, an excellent PIANO, nearly new; Wardrobe, gilt-frame and other Mirrors, Desk and Book Case, Sideboard, SOFA, rush bottom and other Chairs, large and small Rocking Chairs, about 75 years Ingrain and other Carpets, eight-day CLOCK, Window Blinds, Brass Kettles, Churn, Wash Tubs, parlor, ten plate and Cooking STOVES, shovels, tongs, &c. Several hundred bushels Wheat, Corn, Otts and Potatoes; about 25 Tons of good Hay by the ton; Oats and Wheat straw, Corn-Fodder by the shock, and Corn in the ear. Several cords of Hickory and Oak WOOD, &c.

"Sale will commence at 12 o'clock, precisely. -Conditions will be made known by

CHALKLEY HARVEY  
Assignee of Marshall Harvey

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This house, dating from about 1715, retains its basic proportions but much of the detail has been altered.
2. Condition of fabric: Very good.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Bank house, two-and-a-half stories on the north side and three-and-a-half stories on the south, approximately 20' (two-bay front) x 30' (two bays). The frame addition to the east is two-and-a-half stories on the south, approximately 25' across the south facade. There is a stone foundation to the east of the original house which might have been a shed kitchen at one time.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Uncoursed rubble masonry.
4. Chimneys: Original chimney on west side of house.
5. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The original doorway is still in place on the north elevation.

- b. Windows and shutters: The original shutters are now gone, but most window openings of the early house are original. The windows are double hung, six-over-six-lights and six-over-nine-lights.

6. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable with steep pitch on the early house, new roof put on in 1950s.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Cornice return across west end is a replacement, although one originally existed.
- c. Dormers: Three dormers on south side of new frame addition to east of early house.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: Original house had the kitchen on the south side in the basement. The first floor, on level with the ground on the north side, had two rooms with corner fireplaces on the west wall and two stairways, one on the east wall center and one in the northeast corner. (The east wall center stairway was removed as were the corner fireplaces.) The second floor had two rooms and the attic was one room without a ceiling. The frame addition contains a kitchen, recreation area and bath facilities on the first floor, and baths, dressing rooms and bedroom on the second floor.
- 2. Stairways: The original house contained two stairways now altered, one in the northeast corner leading up from the north entrance, and one in the mid-east wall of the south side leading to the second floor, and one which continued from the upper floor to the attic.
- 3. Flooring: Basement flooring has been replaced. Main floor of poplar boards still shows where early partitions were placed. Poplar boards on upper floors.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster.
- 5. Doorways and doors: Doors apparently date from the recent rearranging of the interior partitions.
- 6. Trim: Little original trim is left.
- 7. Hardware: Original hardware can be found on the north exterior door. (See HABS photograph ).
- 8. Lighting: Modern electricity.
- 9. Heating: Three original fireplaces have been rebuilt; two small fireplaces have been closed up. House now has oil heating.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: House faces south on hillside sloping to south. To the south a man-made pond has been created.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: Barn and springhouse. The springhouse was rebuilt on original foundations.
4. Walks, driveways: Private drive leading to parking area above north entrance. From an old print in the possession of Mr. Ladd, it can be seen that a roadway once existed in front of the south facade of the house.

Prepared by Bart Anderson  
Curator, Chester County  
Historical Society  
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